

A Home-made Method for Foreign Languages.

Constant dripping wears away a stone, and if one sets his mind upon accomplishing a certain end and keeps constantly at work in the way of attaining it, it is astonishing in what a comparatively brief period he will find his efforts crowned with success. A contributor to 'The Writer' tells how he learned French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian by simply applying himself to the task each morning and night as he rode up and down town on the elevated road.

He started with French, and taking a book in that language with him when he left home set to work to pick out first the words which, from their similarity to English, he already knew. 'Often in the excitement of such a word hunt,' he would say, 'I would manage to be carried several stations beyond my destination. Words that were wholly strange to me were duly marked, and an hour spent in the evening in ferreting out their definitions and grammatical values in their respective sentences, counted for a week of lessons given in the old way.

'When I became able to read with some degree of satisfaction, I sought short stories sufficiently entertaining to keep up my interest. I found very useful also a little testament (sold for thirty-five cents by the American Bible Society) in which the French and English versions are given in parallel columns. Last of all I began to speak.

'There is one good trait about the average European, and that is that he will not make merry over the distortion of his native idiom by a stranger thereto. He will readily correct mistakes, and regards a conscientious effort to master his language as a compliment to his race, which bespeaks excellent taste on the part of the student. Thus, by changing my lunching quarters to a well-ordered little Gallic cafe, where it was daily possible to converse with a dozen well-meaning young fellows in the coveted dialect—"Me roila!"—The Argosy.

Real Excitement.

'Yes,' said the meek-looking man, 'I've no doubt you've had some great hunting experiences in the West.'

'I have, indeed.'

'Buffalo hunting—'

'Sure.'

'And bear hunting—'

'Of course.'

'Well, you just come around and let my wife take you house-hunting and bargain-hunting with her. Then you'll begin to know what excitement is.'—Washington 'Star.'

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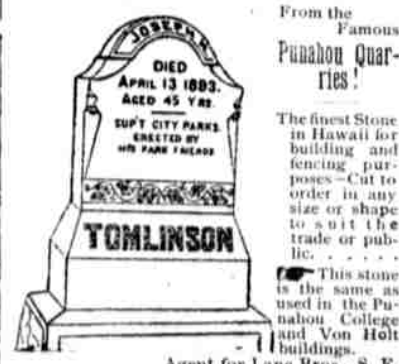
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